

**MINUTES OF THE 14 DECEMBER 2005
TRINIDAD PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING**

- I. ROLL CALL
Chairman Kenny noted all were present and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Staff in attendance were Parker and Leachman.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None.
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
There were no modifications to the agenda.
- IV. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR
There were no items from the floor.
- V. AGENDA ITEMS

PLANNING COMMISSION DISCUSSION / ACTION / PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

- 1. US Cellular 2005-13: Design Review, Coastal Development Permit and Conditional Use Permit to establish a new, approximately 25' x 50' communication facility on Trinidad Head, just to the north of the existing communications site. The site will include a 50' tall wooden pole with 2 sets of Cellular Panel Antennas, a 12' x 12' x 10' equipment shelter on a concrete slab all surrounded by a green vinyl slat 6' tall fence topped with barbed wire. Trinidad Head; APN: 042-121-051.

Kenny opened the discussion and asked Parker for the staff report. She summarized the project, site history, required findings and conditions of approval (see Staff Report dated Dec. 2, 2005). Lake asked for further detail on existing structures. Parker displayed a map and pointed out the existing facilities and ownership. She explained that the opportunity for co-locating facilities on the existing site has run out and that any new service would require a new site. Parker suggested that the Commission recommend to the Council that a comprehensive management plan be developed for the use of the Head. She also noted that there may be rare plants and cultural resources in the area.

Odom asked if the applicant will be responsible for any road maintenance. Tom McMurray, applicant's representative, agreed to find out if there were any conditions applied to previous permits and report back to the Commission. Fulkerson asked about co-location and Parker explained the status of existing facilities on the site and that future co-location opportunities would exist on the proposed site.

Kenny asked McMurray, agent for the applicant, for a presentation. He explained that U.S. Cellular will work with the City to meet all requirements. He also explained that the new facility is needed for the company to remain competitive in the digital age of new and improved services such as emergency location finding because of the current lack of service in the Trinidad area.

Odom ask if it were possible to consolidate all of the telecom facilities into the existing area rather than to expand into a new undeveloped area. McMurray said that this is not possible because the antennae could interfere with each other if they are too close.

Fulkerson asked for additional information on co-location at the existing site and technology obsolescence. McMurray explained how co-location works and its limitations as well as current trends in telecom technologies. McMurray said it would be difficult to achieve any further co-location in the area without having a much higher pole than what exists and that cellular technology would be around for quite some time due to its affordability. McMurray added

Commissioner Richard Johnson (new Commissioner) asked McMurray several questions. First he asked what was driving the design of a 50' pole. McMurray indicated that it was staff's recommendation so co-location can be done on the site in the future. The reasoning being that one 50' pole is better than two 35' poles. Next Johnson asked if a site analysis has been conducted in terms of radioactivity and interaction with communication signals for existing antennae. McMurray indicated that general guidelines were used and that it was not standard practice to conduct that in-depth of analysis for a project of this size. Johnson was also interested in if the proposed antenna could be considered for location on an existing PG&E power pole or the Coast Guard tower. McMurray said it had not been considered for this site and that it would have significant limitations. He also said that they had never been successful in obtaining approvals from the Federal Government for co-location.

Fulkerson asked about industry cooperation. McMurray said industry cooperation was very good but in this case a new site is necessary because co-location opportunities had been exhausted on the existing site. Kenny then opened the public comment period.

S. Binny, 482 Main St., asked what the financial gain to the city was going to be and if all three cellularpoles could be combined on one pole. McMurray answered that it was not physically possible because of the required separation between antennas. Fulkerson explained that the City would negotiate a new lease. Odom further explained that the funds from the existing site are about \$1500 and have been used for the City Hall improvement project.

K Barwash, 308 Ocean, posed the question "do we are already have the same cellular service?" and commented that the City had a hodge-podge process and

that a plan is needed. McMurray indicated that U.S. Cellular's current service is inadequate and that the upgrade was needed to improve competitiveness. Parker relayed information from the City Attorney concerning the City's ability to restrict cellular facilities based on service types and they have to remain competition-neutral. This means that the current proposal could not be denied just because there is already similar service existing in the area.

A. Scott, a visitor, stated she was concerned about health and visual effects. She feels that additional towers will affect tourism. Cindy Lindgren felt that there is already too much development on the Head and recommended that a moratorium be put in place before the U.S. Cellular tower is approved. She suggested that the City get a plan together before any further development on the Head be allowed.

B Rosen, 364 Ocean, said there are about 80 letters opposed to tower. He said that studies in Europe indicate that cellular technologies do in fact harm people and wildlife. He also argued that this area needs to be protected like Point Lobos for tourists.

Kelly Lindgren stated that the Tsurai Ancestral Society is opposed to the project and asked if the tribe has been consulted. McMurray said that the tribe will be consulted after the City's approval, but prior to building permits. Lindgren suggested that the management plan is outdated and that a new plan is needed.

A lady speaking for E. Hanlon, 562 West St., stated that it does not make sense to allow towers after the City spent so much time and effort to have the electric utilities underground. She also urged the City to not yield to private interests over public opinion. It was noted that the utilities on the Head are not underground and will not likely be converted in the near future.

Lake ended public comment. Parker reviewed the Commission's options. Fulkerson moved to continue the hearing to the January 18, 2006 meeting. Odom seconded. All were in favor.

VI. STAFF REPORT - None.

VI. COUNCIL LIAISON - None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted by: Todd Leachman
Secretary to the Planning Commission
City of Trinidad